



www.dehoopcollection.com



Special points of interest:

- Mountain bike route amongst Fynbos
- Picnic on the unspoilt sand dunes
- Stargazing
- Guided bird walks available
- DSTV for viewing sport in the lounge

Soccer, Xmas, Music and more



Jolene Boshoff

Soccer

In light of the World Cup Opening, Cape Nature Potberg staff approached De Hoop Collection staff to participate in a last minute friendly soccer match held on Friday 11 June 2010 at De Hoop on a field set up on the greens in front of Figtree Restaurant. Thank you to Cape Nature for the invite, our staff thoroughly enjoyed the game and the victory of 5/3 to De Hoop... Thank you to all the players and support, in a great team building effort.

Whale of a Christmas, with Xmas in July at De Hoop, 16-18 July

Christmas glitter and carols seems odd in the middle of July but heck, we never get the chance to do justice to traditional Christmas fare which is far too rich for our sizzling hot South African December. I was recently invited by the De Hoop Collection for a *Christmas in July weekend* at the spectacular De Hoop nature reserve, situated to the east of Waenhuiskrans and stretching all the way to Cape Infanta. The cellar of the Fig Tree restaurant in the heart of the De Hoop Collection, offers a full range of delectable wine from the Elim area. A number of climatic factors have

allowed grapes in the area to develop unique flavours, especially the Sauvignon Blanc. The Elim Winegrowers have incorporated their farms into the Nuwejaars Wetland Special Management Area Initiative. They are committed to environmentally responsible wine production, and the preservation of the unique fauna and flora of the Agulhas coastal plains. Their slogan: "Real wine, Real people", encapsulates the spirit and ideals of the Elim Winegrowers.

We had a chance to taste some of the delectable wine from the area on Saturday afternoon when Jolene Boshoff and Miki Elion presented us with a cheese and wine tasting on the edge of a cliff, overlooking the breathtakingly beautiful vlei at De Hoop. An unforgettable experience!

Our "Christmas" dinner, lovingly prepared by chef Bruce Elion, was accompanied by wines from Creation in the Hemel-en-Aarde valley. Jo-Anne Kunz introduced the

guests to four wines from Creation, two whites and two reds and advised which of the wines would pair well with particular dishes from the extensive buffet table. Both the Sauvignon Blanc with its aromas of tropical fruit, elderflower and mineral whiffs as well as the Viognier with its fragrant white peach aromas and rich creamy character, paired well with most of the dishes on the starter menu and the tarty rollmops and herring salads. In my opinion the Sauvignon Blanc and the lovely Whale Bay Clam Chowder with Chorizo and Smoky Bacon made a perfect pair while the combination of Viognier and Parma Ham and Asparagus Rolls was also a winner. The meat dishes presented us with a choice of roasted pork loin with sage and onions, roasted turkey with cranberry sauce and prune stuffing and duck and sausage casquette with beans and root

vegetables. The pork and turkey went well with the Syrah Grenache with its aromas of ripe black olive and whiffs of pepper. A Rhône-style blend with intense flavours of ripe



Jolene Boshoff



Jolene Boshoff

plum, the Syrah complemented the fruit in the stuffing and sauce of the roasted turkey. I found the combination of the Bordeaux-style blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot and the rich duck however, a particularly pleasing combination. My husband tried the

fruity hot Christmas cake and Vander Hum custard with the

delicious Bordeaux- style blend and declared it a perfect match.

The weekend was over too soon but we will definitely return to De Hoop and nexttime I hope to explore the Elim wine farms on my way to this unique reserve.

Lianda Beyers-Cronje, world traveller, passionate wine lover and wine columnist on Nosy Rosy.

Musical ensemble under the stars, celebrating Women, 6-9 Aug

Musicians Melane Hofmyer-Burger from South Africa on the Flute; Marjan Vonk from the Netherlands on the Viola; Peta Ann Holdcroft also from

South Africa on the Chelo; Ivo Ivanof from Bulgaria on the Violin & Irene Tsoinff originally from Russia on the Violin now say they are all



“Proudly South African” all play for the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra and are all music teachers. They also play at weddings, concerts and other events. The evening was played out with music from Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Bach, Andrew Lloyd Weber & Elton

John to name a few both very beautiful & moving... Jolene Boshoff



Sightings:

*A *Hystrix africae australis*, porcupine (the pig with thorns) decided to his face on youth day and has been around the Opstal quad since. It's been said that the young eat soft grass and leaves. Are porcupines really nocturnal? Yes. I think this one just want to join in all our activities appearing in the day. An interesting fact about this species; it is believed that they are capable of “shooting” their quills, however they “freeze”, in the hope that it would go unnoticed, but if confronted still confronted, they rapidly reverse with their back towards the predator, often resulting in a predator's face pierced and filled with quills.*

Dalfrenzo Laing - Marine Guide

Upcoming events:

Spring Fever Weekend 17–19 September 2010

The rich abundance of natural beauty makes Spring a very special time of year at De Hoop. Join us for a weekend

of

expert-guided walks to explore and learn about the unique fynbos kingdom so characteristic of our reserve and the birds frequenting these flowers. An indigenous flower arranging workshop will take place on the Saturday morning and Saturday evening we'll host a Mad Hatter's dinner inspired by Spring, a stay at Koppie Alleen is prize worth making a hat for!

Rock pool appreciation month

Entire month of October

The shoreline along the De Hoop Marine Reserve offers some of the most spectacular rock-pools. For the entire month of October, we'll be offering rock pool appreciation walks and walks. Guests can also sign up for guided snorkelling trips for a unique insight into the world of creatures living in these finely-balanced ecosystems. They'll be welcomed back on shore with a special picnic basket.

Nikon Photographic Course (21-24 October)

Conducted by Derek and Norma Pearman who will give you the edge on knowing your camera, but more so the unleashing of your own creative style and bringing that out in your pictures. With De Hoop as a backdrop and so many subjects to capture - this is an amazing opportunity! Cost for 3 nights accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) is R2550pp plus presenter's fee. Call Derek on 083 274 3781 or email him at photoman@lantic.net

Weddings and Conferences

De Hoop offers a variety of options for weddings, private functions and conference packages. Please contact Nini on events@dehoopcollection.co.za or Sonja on 071 346 8855 and sonja@dehoopcollection.co.za

Some visitor feedback

Anyhow, De Hoop will definitely be on our list for future visits. It is a soul-healing place where city dwellers get to experience all of Africa's best- huge space, fire-red sunsets, friendly people and a fish eagle's cry to wake you up in the morning. I ride Africa. www.iride-africa.blogspot.com

Dear Justin and Jolene, just a quick email to thank you so much for the really wonderful stay at De Hoop, which exceeded our expectations! (Because we had no idea what we were coming to!) Everything was memorable, enchanting and so fresh for us. Kate Turkington Author, Travel Writer, Talk Radio 702 Talkshow Host



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